

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action mailed August 10, 2006. Claims 8 and 19-49 are cancelled and claims 1 and 9 are amended. Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-7 and 9-18 are pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

I. Examiner's Interview

Applicant's express their appreciation to the Examiner for conducting an in-person interview with Applicants on August 4, 2006.

II. Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include elements of claim 8 and rewritten claim 9 in an independent format so as to include elements of claim 1 from which claim 9 depended. The Examiner should note, however, that the Applicants have also amended several elements of claim 9 and 1 so as to clarify the subject matter claimed in view of the precise terminology used in the specification, and to correct minor informalities in the claims. It is believed that the claims remain in a condition for allowance according to the same logic set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action of August 10, 2006 and as discussed in the interview of August 4, 2006.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 1 day of September, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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